



JASON OLSON/The Daily Herald

Zooming through: Automobiles travel through the first of two new tunnels in Provo Canyon to open to traffic.

First tunnel in canyon project opens to traffic

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PROVO — The first of two tunnels constructed in the Provo Canyon highway project was opened for travel Wednesday, 8/5.

Clarissa Grimes, office manager for Obayashi Corporation,

contractors for the 2.7-mile construction project, said the southbound tunnel opened for two-way traffic Wednesday morning.

"The first car went through the tunnel at around 10 a.m.," she said.

All southbound traffic is now

passing through the tunnel. Grimes said all traffic is completely off the old road.

Jeff Baird, Utah Department of Transportation project engineer, said the second tunnel will probably not be opened until October.

"Right now we have only the southbound tunnel open, although we are directing two-way traffic through it. We may have to move the traffic back and forth between it and the old highway as we proceed with construction," he said.